

Amendment and Remarks
Appln. No. 10/687,497
Page 5 of 8

Amendment to the Abstract

Abstract

A proximity warning system for a fireplace including a monitor module and an alarm module. The monitor module comprises a sensor and is configured to sense when an object, such as a person, entersis in a defined zone proximate to the fireplace. The monitor module ~~may use a variety of techniques to sense when an object enters the defined zone. For example, the monitor module may uses~~ the difference between a signal from the sensor capacitance and a signal from an adjustable reference element pre-adjusted to represent the absence of the object or ~~pulse infrared light to detect~~ when an object entersis in the defined zone. The alarm module is coupled to the monitor module to generate an alarm when the monitor module senses that the object has ~~entered~~ is in the defined zone.